



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

Delaware amendment of 1893 is omitted. Article IV, sec. 36 of the Minnesota constitution was adopted in its present form on November 8, 1898; however, the 1898 amendment was simply a modification of an amendment of November 3, 1896, but there is no indication of this fact. The organic act of the District of Columbia adopted in 1878 is printed without any reference to the fact that much of it has been repealed by later legislation. The Florida constitution of 1885 is printed as in force in 1898, although it had been amended seven times between 1900 and 1904. All of the errors mentioned above have been discovered in the casual use of Dr. Thorpe's collection during the few months since its publication. It is probable that further use will disclose still other errors.¹

Enough has been said to indicate that the new edition of the *Charters and Constitutions* has not been properly edited. The collection must, however, be used by students, because the more recent state constitutions are not easily available elsewhere. It is perhaps sufficient to suggest that the work is untrustworthy and should be used with care.

W. F. DODD.

Legal and Historical Status of the Dred Scott Decision. By ELBERT WILLIAM R. EWING. (Washington, D. C.: Cobden Publishing Company. 1909. Pp. 228.)

This book is written to show that the decision in the Dred Scott case was eternally right. The author himself states as its purpose the demonstration that the charges against the decision in the case "are without foundation in law or history; that the decision of each question was valid and binding law; that the repudiation became the most pronounced nullification" (p. 7).

With this frank statement of its intention one is not surprised that it is not conceived in an historical spirit. In fact it breathes so much of the ante-bellum fire against the North that one is surprised at the date of publication on its title page and would think it a long unpublished manuscript were it not for internal evidence of its recent composition. This spirit which pervades the book is illustrated by a few phrases taken at random: "The North was lashed into a fury in the belief engendered by the hypnotic power of the exacerbationists" (p. 51); "the irrefutable

¹ With reference to errors in the colonial documents and charters the reader should consult Prof. J. Franklin Jameson's review of Dr. Thorpe's work in the *American Historical Review* for October, 1909.

logic of Chief Justice Taney" (p. 77); "the record made by collusion between scheming Republicans" (p. 113); "the Republican party became pronounced rebels against our government" (p. 185).

With such a purpose and such a spirit it is not surprising to find a constant inaccuracy of statement, which is not so much of absolute error in the facts but rather a warping of the facts to suit the preconceived point of view. This so permeates all parts of the work that an examination of it would involve a detailed consideration of the whole book. It is, however, evident that the method used completely vitiates its value as an historical or legal treatise.

It may be admitted that much that has been written about the Dred Scott decision has been unfair to Taney and his associates of the majority: that undue emphasis has been laid upon the so-called dicta in some of the opinions; that the chief justice occupies a much higher position as a jurist and patriot than is accorded to him by many historians. But the errors of some of those who have written on this subject do not justify an opposite extreme illustrated by a statement that "From that day on down to the present the principles upon which the Dred Scott decision rests have more and more been recognized as the distinctive features of our government" (p. 122).

If a corrective to the unwarranted views which have been held by some writers concerning the Dred Scott case be needed the present work fails to furnish it in any proper manner. It displays neither the legal or historical knowledge, nor a sufficiently calm or judicial temperament to entitle it to serious consideration in the literature dealing with the slavery question.

JOHN B. SANBORN.

The New Encyclopedia of Social Reform, etc. Edited by WILLIAM D. P. BLISS and RUDOLPH M. BINDER, Ph.D., with the coöperation of many specialists, etc. New Edition. (New York and London: Funk and Wagnalls Company. 1908. Pp. vi, 1321.)

It takes scarcely ten years to put a sociological encyclopedia "out of date," and an out-of-date encyclopedia is as unsatisfactory as a medieval costume is unfashionable. The public will therefore welcome Mr. Bliss's *Encyclopedia*, which he calls *new* in order to dispel the impression that it is merely a second edition of a work under the same title which he issued ten years earlier.